GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5291
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003
DEVELOPMENT OF QUALITY SEEDS BY I.A.R.C./N.S.C.
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Indian Agriculture Research Council (IARC) and National Seeds Corporation (NSC) for the development o quality seeds such as Soya, Sunflower and Groundnut;

(b) whether India has made any headway in the global-market of seeds;

(c) whether the demand of improved quality of seeds is likely to cross 100 lakh tonnes in the next two years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet this demand?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) There is a specific programme, Oilseeds Production Programme, under which funds have been provided to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)) by the Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses (TMOP) for the production of required quantity o breeder seed of soybean, sunflower and groundnut. Funds have also been provided by TMOP division to National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Governments for production of foundation seed and certified/quality seed and also for distribution of seed to farmers.

The quantity of breeder seed produced during the year 2002-2003 are 2556.70 quintals in groundnut, 8267.30 quintals in soybean, 9.15 quintals in sunflower varieties and 13.30 quintals in sunflower hybrids.

The requirement and availability of certified/quality seed in these crops is given below for the current year i.e. 2002-2003:

Crop Quantity (in lakh quintals)

	Requirement	Availabilily
Groundnut	6.64	7.30
Sunflower	0.66	1.07
Soybean	5.50	6.64

(b) India has made headway in case of vegetable seeds. Seeds of capsicum, watermelon, carrot, squash, tomato, brinjal, okra, bottlegourd, radish and onion have been globally marketed by India. However, our share in the global market is still less than 1%.

(c) The level of 100 lakh quintals of improved quality seeds production was achieved in the year 1998-99 and since then the seed production had always been above 100 lakh quintals.

(d) The requirement of about 100 lakh quintals of seed has been met.